

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 OSLO 01235 01 OF 02 140809Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-12 AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01
CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DLOS-09 DODE-00
DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 SOE-02 DOE-11 FMC-01 TRSE-00
H-01 INR-10 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-07 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 /139 W
-----097891 140824Z /14

R 131610Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY OSLO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5429
INFO USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 OSLO 1235

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EFIS, PBOR, PEPR, NO, UR
SUBJ: MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER - GREY ZONE CONTROVERSY;
SVALBARD FPZ

REF: OSLO 1201

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: I CALLED ON FONMIN FRYDENLUND AT THIS REQUEST;
ON SATURDAY, MARCH 11. THE MINISTER WAS CONCERNED WITH THE
NEED TO REPAIR THE DAMAGE DONE TO US/NORWEGIAN RELATIONS BY
THE PRESS LEAKS FROM WASHINGTON JUST PRIOR TO THE STORTING
DEBATE ON THE GREY ZONE (REFTEL). AMBASSADOR VINDENES, WHO WILL
ACCOMPANY LOS MINISTER EVENSEN TO MOSCOW ON THE MARCH 13 VISIT;
TOOK NOTES ON THE MEETING AND, AT ITS CONCLUSION, DESCRIBED
THE GON VIEW OF THE PROSPECTS FOR THE MOSCOW MEETING. END SUMMARY.

2. THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THAT THE SPATE OF PRESS STOREIS
OUT OF WASHINGTON THE PREVIOUS WEEK HAD CREATED PROBLEMS AND
THAT THERE WERE NOW A NUMBER OF "LOOSE ENDS" TO TAKE CARE OF.

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PAGE 02 OSLO 01235 01 OF 02 140809Z

3. FRYDENLUND POINTED TO HIS STORTING STATEMENT (PARA 3 REFTL)
IN WHICH HE SAID THAT NO RESPONSIBLE AMERICAN AUTHORITY WAS
BEHIND THE PRESS STORIES ON US MISGIVINGS ON THE GREY ZONE
AGREEMENT. HE SAID THAT HE WAS DISTURBED BY THE INCONSISTENCY
BETWEEN THE OFFICIAL US STATEMENTS WHICH CORRECTLY LABELED THE
NORWEGIAN-SOVIET AGREEMENT A BILATERAL MATTER, AND THE PRESS
REPORTS WHICH INDICATED THAT THE USG DID NOT REGARD THE GREY

ZONE IN THAT LIGHT. HE NOTED THAT IN OCTOBER DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY VINE HAD EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT IN DEALING WITH THE SVALBARD FISHERIES PRESERVATION ZONE (FPZ), THE GREY ZONE AGREEMENT NOT BE USED AS A MODEL. THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THESE US CONCERNS ABOUT AN ISSUE IN WHICH THE US HAS LEGITIMATE INTERESTS. I ASSURED FRYDENLUND THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO USG EFFORT TO CONTRADICT THE GON'S PERCEPTION. THERE HAD, I SAID, BEEN NO PRESS BRIEFING AND THE SOURCE OF THE PRESS REPORTS WAS UNKNOWN TO US AUTHORITIES.

4. FRYDENLUND POINTED OUT THAT, ON TAKING OFFICE, HE HAD IDENTIFIED NORWAY'S TIE TO THE US AS ITS LIFELINE. HIS CONSISTENT AIM, HE SAID, HAS BEEN TO STRENGTHEN THAT TIE. HE SAID THAT THERE IS NOW SOME IRRITATION WITH THE US WITHIN THE GON (AND THE RULING LABOR PARTY), IRRITATION WHICH, HOWEVER, HE DID NOT FEEL WOULD BE LASTING. IN THIS CONTEXT, THE MINISTER AGAIN CITED, IN ADDITION TO THE GREY ZONE MATTER, PERCEPTIONS ON THE GERMAN TROOP QUESTION (THE DECISION, HE SAID, WAS BASED ON FINLAND'S NEEDS; THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN A SERIOUS DOMESTIC POLITICAL REACTION IF THE GON HAD BEEN PERCEIVED AS PUTTING THE FINNS IN A DIFFICULT POSITION WITH THE USSR). HE ALSO CITED THE EXTERNAL PERCEPTIONS OF NORWAY'S REACTION TO THE DECEMBER KOSYGIN TIRADE. THAT OUTBURST, HE SAID, WAS, DESPITE VIEWS TO THE CONTRARY, A COMPLETE FAILURE. THE RUSSIANS DO NOT, HE SAID, UNDERSTAND NORWEGIAN PSYCHOLOGY; THEY DID THEMSELVES FAR MORE HARM THAN

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 OSLO 01235 01 OF 02 140809Z

GOOD WITH THAT OUTBURST. FRYDENLUND SAID THAT THESE VARIOUS MISUNDERSTANDINGS AND THE "INFIGHTING" AMONG ALLIES SHOWED A LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN NORWAY AND WERE DAMAGING TO THE ALLIANCE.

5. IN REGARD TO SPECIFIC EFFORTS TO REBUILD FULL US CREDIBILITY FRYDENLUND AGREED THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR ME TO MEET WITH THE PRIME MINISTER AND WITH FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN STEEN. (FRYDENLUND NOTED SARDONICALLY THAT STEEN'S FAILURE TO BRIEF HIS COMMITTEE FULLY ON HIS US VISIT MAY REFLECT THE FACT THAT THE CHAIRMAN IS A VERY BUSY MAN AND MAY NOT HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO READ ALL THE PAPERS HE RECEIVES.) FRYDENLUND ALSO NOTED THAT DEFMIN HASEN NOW HAS DOUBTS ABOUT THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE US TRUSTS NORWAY. HE ALSO NOTED THAT STARTING PRESIDENT GUTTORM HANSEN WAS IN NEED OF REASSURANCE.

6. FRYDENLUND SAID THAT HE FELT THAT, ON HIS PART, IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR HIM TO BRIEF THE AMBASSADORS OF THE UK, FRG AND FRANCE. HE SAID THAT IT WOULD ALSO BE USEFUL IF EVENSEN GAVE SIMILAR BRIEFINGS.

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PAGE 01 OSLO 01235 02 OF 02 140751Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 OSLO 1235

7. AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING, AMBASSADOR VINDENES DESCRIBED THE GON AIRMS CONCERNING THE FORTHCOMING MOSCOW MEETINGS. EVENSEN, HE SAID, HOPES TO CONTRIBUTE TO A SITUATION THAT WILL ALLOW THE USSR TO ABIDE BY CONCRETE REGULATIONS IN THE FPZ WHEN SUCH REGULATIONS ARE ACTUALLY ISSUED. VINDENES SAID THAT THE GON REALIZED THE SOVIETS WILL TALK CONCRETELY ONLY IF THEY FEEL THAT THEY CAN DO SO WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THEIR BASIC POSITION (WHICH HE DID NOT DEFINE). HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT, IT MAY, IN FACT, BE POSSIBLE TO DISCUSS SPECIFIC MEASURES THAT DO NOT PREJUDICE THEIR BASIC POSTIONS. THE SOVIETS, HE SIAD, MAY TACITLY AGREE ON SOME SORT OF REGULATIONS FOR CONSERVATION PURPOSES. (DUE TO A CHANE ENCOUNTER ON LEAVING THE MINISTRY, EVENSEN ASKED TO MEET WITH ME ON FRIDAY, MARCH 16, HIS FIRST DAY BACK FROM MOSCOW).

8. COMMENT: THE EXTENT OF THE DAMAGE DONE BY THE PRESS LEAKS IS, IF ANYTHING, LARGER THAN WE HAD THOUGHT. I AM GIVING FIRST PRIORITY TO EFFORTS TO RESTORE OUR CREDIBILITY WITH THOSE GON FIGURES WHOSE CONFIDENCE IS MOST IMPORTANT TO US. AS FOR VIDENES' APPRAISAL OF THE MOSCOW TALKS, MY ESTIMATE IS
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 OSLO 01235 02 OF 02 140751Z

THAT THE NORWEGIANS ARE GOING TO MOSCOW WITH A GREAT AMOUNT OF HOPE, BUT WITH LITTLE REAL BELIEF IN THE SUCCESS OF THEIR

MISSION.

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